

and defined under the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States;

(2) deplores the use of excessive and unlawful force against peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela and the inexcusable use of violence and politically-motivated criminal charges to intimidate the country's political opposition;

(3) calls on the Government of Venezuela to disarm and dismantle the system of "colectivos" or "collectives" and any other government-affiliated or supported militias or vigilante groups;

(4) calls on the Government of Venezuela to allow an impartial, third-party investigation into the excessive and unlawful force against peaceful demonstrations on multiple occasions since February 4th, 2014;

(5) urges the President to immediately impose targeted sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes, against individuals planning, facilitating, or perpetrating gross human rights violations against peaceful demonstrators, journalists, and other members of civil society in Venezuela; and

(6) calls for the United States Government to work with other countries in the hemisphere to actively encourage a process of dialogue between the Government of Venezuela and the political opposition through the good offices of the Organization of American States so that the voices of all Venezuelans can be taken into account through their country's constitutional institutions as well as free and fair elections.

SENATE RESOLUTION 366—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 366

Whereas multiple sclerosis (MS) can impact people of all ages, races, and ethnicities;

Whereas MS is 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas while MS is not directly inherited, studies show there are genetic and, probably, environmental, ethnic, and geographic factors that make certain individuals more susceptible to the disease;

Whereas worldwide, there are approximately 2,300,000 people who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, however, it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents in the United States are living with MS;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable neurological disease that interrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling in the extremities to blindness and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any affected individual cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas there is no single laboratory test available that provides a definitive diagnosis for MS;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is still unknown, and there is no cure;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent organizations dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all those affected by MS, recognizes and

supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every year;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to enhance cooperation among organizations to provide greater benefits to individuals and families affected by MS;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, encourage people to demonstrate their commitment to moving toward a world free from MS, and acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talent to advancing MS research and programs; and

Whereas this year Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is being recognized during the week of March 3, 2014, through March 9, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) supports promoting awareness of individuals who are affected by multiple sclerosis;

(3) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating March 3, 2014, through March 9, 2014, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) encourages media organizations to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by educating the public about multiple sclerosis;

(6) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(7) supports all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(8) expresses gratitude to the family and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement to those individuals; and

(9) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work towards finding new ways to stop the progression of the disease, treat its symptoms, and end multiple sclerosis forever.

SENATE RESOLUTION 367—DESIGNATING MARCH 3, 2014, AS "READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 367

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education As-

sociation to designate March 3, the day after the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (also known as "Dr. Seuss"), as a day to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2014, as "Read Across America Day";

(2) honors Theodor Geisel (also known as "Dr. Seuss") for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 17th anniversary of Read Across America Day;

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe Read Across America Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 368—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2014, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 368

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients—in the United States, typically less than 200,000 individuals annually;

Whereas as of the date of approval of this resolution, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare genetic diseases account for more than half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are serious, life-threatening, and lack an effective treatment;

Whereas great strides have been made in research and treatment for rare diseases as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414);

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration has made great strides in involving the patient in the drug review process as part of its Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that originated in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144);

Whereas a third of all treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2013 were orphan products intended to treat rare diseases;

Whereas lack of access to effective treatments and difficulty in obtaining reimbursement for life-altering, and even life-saving, treatments still exist and remain significant challenges for the rare disease community and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and conditions include epidermolysis bullosa, progeria, sickle cell anemia, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), Tay-Sachs, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, many childhood cancers, and fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva;

Whereas people with rare diseases experience challenges that include difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses, limited treatment options, and difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their diseases;

Whereas the rare disease community made great strides in 2013, including the passage of the National Pediatric Research Network Act (Public Law 113-55), which calls special